

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

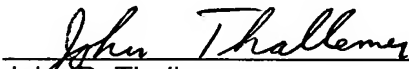
By the present amendment, applicants have canceled Claim 9 and added new Claim 11. Support for new Claim 11 is found in applicants' specification, as originally filed, on page 9, lines 5-15. In addition, applicants have amended Claims 7, 8, and 10 to remove multiple dependencies, and Claims 2-5 to depend on Claim 1. Therefore, the claims remaining for consideration by the Examiner are Claims 1-8 and 10-11.

Applicants have amended the specification to place the Abstract on a separate sheet.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7945



John D. Thallemer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,940

Date: March 15, 2005